



Rural Health Care Initiative

Pursuing healthy pregnancies & children in Sierra Leone

Welcome to *Tikonko Talk*

While you are waiting, please write in the chat to share what you are looking forward to hearing from the presentation today.

Agenda

1. Brief History & Mission Statement
2. Programs and impact
3. Future Opportunities
4. Meet the new ED, Lisa Peterson
5. Questions



Mission Statement

We partner with rural communities in Sierra Leone in redeveloping health care systems to overcome one of the highest maternal and child mortality rates in the world.



RHCI's Four Program Areas



Rural Health System
Redevelopment in
Tikonko Chiefdom



Birth Waiting
Homes



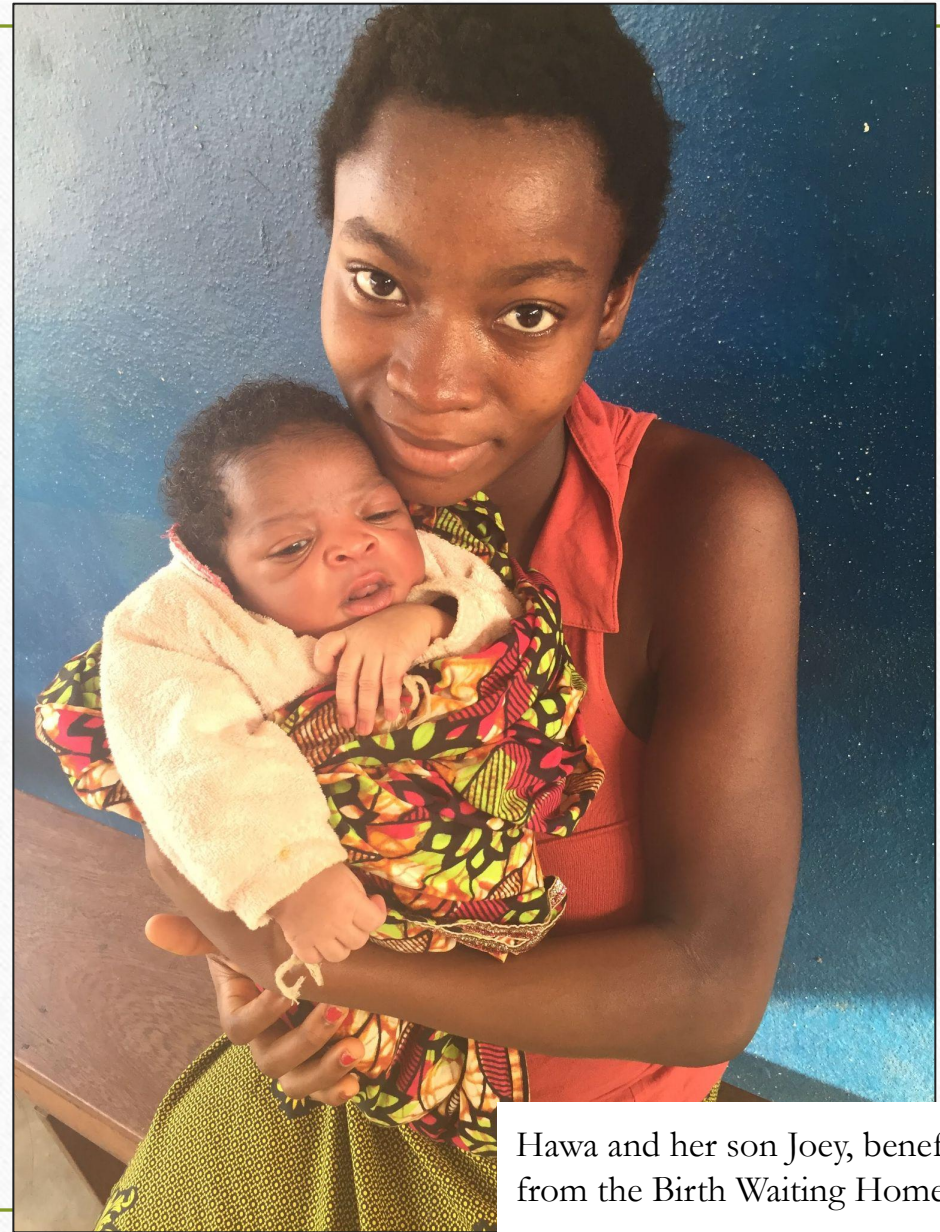
Food Security
Agriculture and
Farming



Children's Health
Program

1. Birth Waiting Homes

- Antenatal, postnatal and newborn health care
- 3 meals a day, laundry, housekeeping, and security
- Transportation
- Health education on hygiene, nutrition, breastfeeding, family planning, and agriculture
- Skills training (tailoring, tie-dye) and social activities



Hawa and her son Joey, beneficiaries from the Birth Waiting Home

Gondama Birth Waiting Home

- Opened January 2021
- Collaboration between:
 - US Embassy
 - Friends of Sierra Leone
 - Gondama Community Health Center
 - Residents of Gondama



Birth Waiting Homes

- **241** pregnant/postpartum women have stayed at Mbao-mi in Tikonko and Gondama Birth Waiting Homes in January 2020-May 2021
- **659** pregnant/postpartum women have stayed at Mbao-mi in Tikonko and Gondama Birth Waiting Homes since opening of Mbao-mi in January 2018
- **Zero maternal deaths at either Home**



Mbao-mi Birth Waiting Home

2. Rural Health Redevelopment

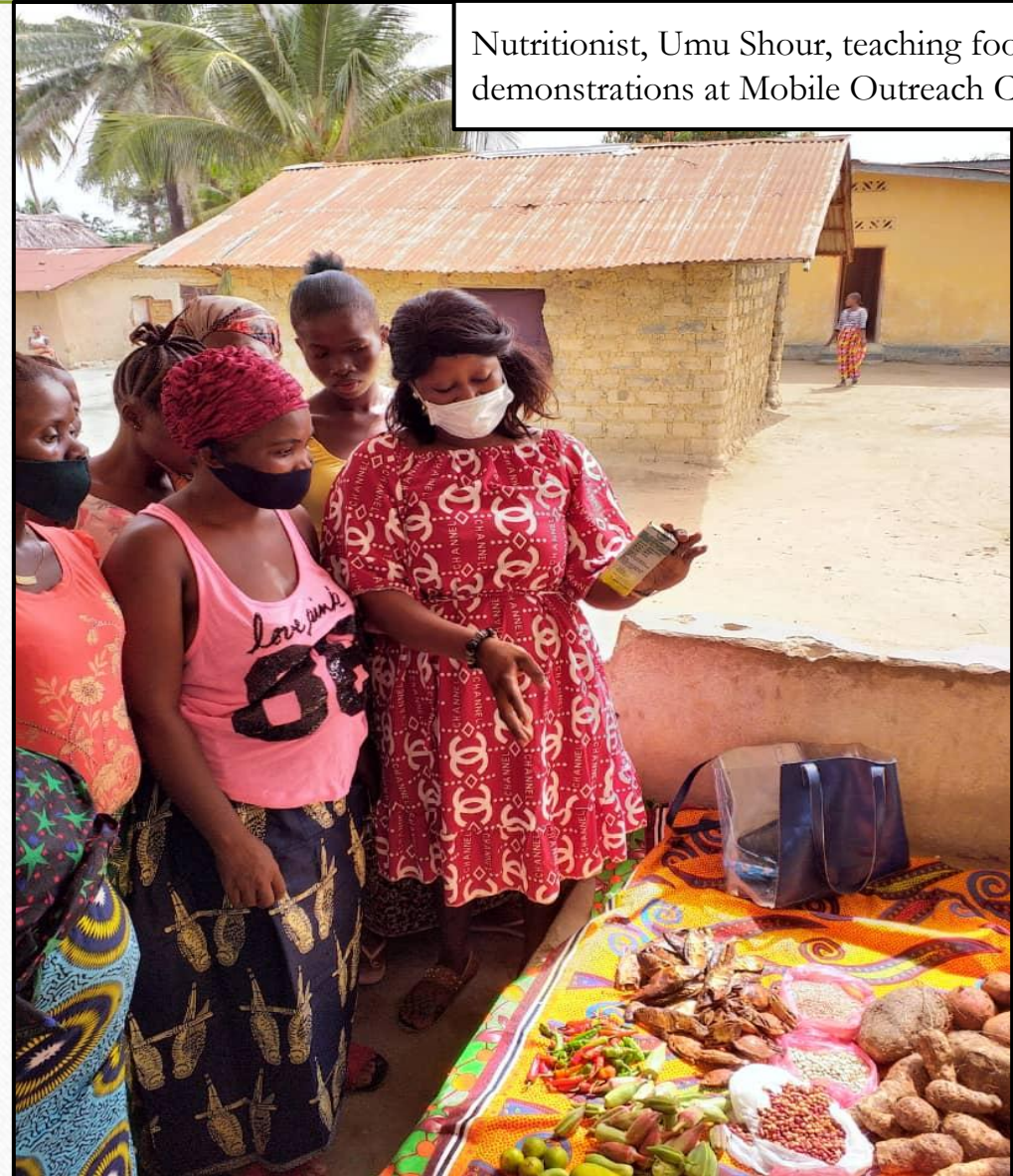
- Mobile outreach clinics to 8 villages
- Provide medical training for community health workers
- Partner with local health centers to provide medical supplies and medications
- Provide transportation for patients to health care facilities



Mothers and children awaiting care at
Mobile Outreach Clinic

8 Outreach Clinics January 2020-May 2021

- **5604** children's visits for malaria, respiratory and skin infections, malnutrition and vaccines
- **1120** Prenatal visits



Family Planning Consultations

January 2020-May 2021

➤ **3078** consultations and
contraceptives supplied

*Oral Contraceptives,
Depo-provera (shot), Implant
and condoms*



Head Nurse, Juliana Sagba with volunteer Alexa Hoffer at Mobile Outreach Clinic

Community Health Worker Training Fall 2020

- **26** Traditional Birth Attendants from the Gondama Catchment area completed a 3.5 week training to become certified Community Health Workers

*a collaboration of RHCI and Midwives
on Missions of Service*



Community Health Workers
receiving their certificates

Truck in transport to rural village

Transportation

January 2020-May 2021

Two 4-wheel drive Toyota Trucks and three motorbikes

- **Over 530** patient transports (pregnant and post-partum women and babies, and critically ill children).



Donations of Medical and Baby Supplies

In past year:

- **\$16,000** value of supplies shipped from Minnesota to Tikonko
- **\$29,000** in Medical supplies purchased by RHCI in Sierra Leone



Volunteers from First Presbyterian Church of White Bear Lake assist in packing barrels with supplies

Video of beneficiary of the Gondama Birth Waiting Home

Click [HERE](#) to watch.



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3. Children's Health Program

- Evaluation and treatment for malnourished children including supplemental feedings and caregiver education
- Diagnosing and treating malaria, acute respiratory infections and other common illnesses
- Improving access to immunizations
- Transporting and paying for hospital care for critically ill children



Malnourished child evaluated and treated during Mobile Outreach Clinic

Child Malnutrition Program

Umu Shour, Nutritionist, hired in May 2020.

In the past 14 months:

- **938** child malnutrition visits for **over 250** children, with RUTF (Ready to Use Therapeutic Food) distributed to them, along with caregiver education.



Child assessed for malnutrition with MUAC

4. Food Security

- Grow food at garden and farm at Tikonko Birth Waiting Home for patients and staff
- Educate admitted women, local farmers, and Farmer Based Organizations on best growing practices
- Support 3 Farmer Based Organizations



Women from the Birth Waiting Home assisting and learning on RHCI's farm

Food Security

April 2020-June 2021

- **Over 60** local farmers from 3 Farmer Based Organizations received agriculture education
- Women at Birth Waiting Home receive hands on education in the garden
- **30 young men** with Bo Youth Group attended educational sessions
- Volunteer, Calvin Dauner trained local farmers, using RHCI land as demonstration



Volunteer, Calvin Dauner, teaches local farmers improved farming techniques

Food Security Committee Experts

- **Steve Clarke**-international agricultural development specialist with over 40 years of experience in designing and delivering technical services and training.
- **Bill Pilacinski; PhD.**-international agriculture biotechnonology consulting experience with over 40 years of experience, receiving numerous awards and patents.

Steve Clarke

Steve is an international agricultural development specialist with over 40 years of experience in designing and delivering technical services and training.

Trained as an agronomist, Steve has special expertise in postharvest processing technologies, grain storage, certified seed production, and crop quality standards.

Earlier in his career, he served as a rural development volunteer for Peace Corps in Benin, field agronomist for ICRISAT in Senegal and Mali, and the in-country director for a crop storage and marketing project in Rwanda financed by USAID and implemented by the University of Minnesota (UMN).

For 15 years, he helped manage a USAID-supported institutional partnership between UMN and ag universities in Morocco.

For the past 15 years, Steve has served as a consultant on a number of other development projects in Africa, including seven years as a senior technical adviser for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) on a major Morocco ag project.

Steve has been actively involved with MN-based Bountifield Intl (formerly Compatible Technology Intl) since the 1990s, and helped design and initiate implementation of the McKnight-funded project on improving post-harvest groundnut technologies in Malawi and Tanzania as well as the USAID-funded project to commercialize CTT's millet threshing technology in Senegal.

For the past five years, Steve has been providing advice on RHCI's agricultural programs.

Steve has served on the program committee of One Village Partners (OVP), a MN-based sister organization to RHCI working in Sierra Leone.

William P. Pilacinski, Ph.D.

Agricultural biotechnology consultant, Minneapolis, MN, dba WP Consulting, LLC (2010 – 2019)

Monsanto Company, St. Louis, MO (1998 - 2010)

INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY AFFAIRS MANAGER, Asia-Pacific Region (2005 - 2010) TEAM LEAD, Wheat and Root Crops (2000 – 2005)

REGULATORY AFFAIRS MANAGER, Corn, Wheat and Specialty Crops (1998 – 2005)

Novartis Seeds, Inc. (now Syngenta), Golden Valley, MN (1995 - 1998)

MANAGER, Regulatory and Government Affairs

ViroMed Laboratories, Inc., Eden Prairie, MN (1994 - 1995), A medical laboratory services company. PROGRAM MANAGER, Pharmaceutical & Biotech Group

Grand Metropolitan Food Sector (formerly Pillsbury Co.), Minneapolis, MN (1987- 1994)

PROGRAM LEADER - BIOTECHNOLOGY, Strategic Technology Development Group (1990 - 1994)

SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST - AG BIOTECHNOLOGY, Green Giant Company (1987- 1994)

William P. Pilacinski, Ph.D. Continued;

Played a key role in the development of biotechnology program: designed laboratories purchased equipment, recruited staff, and identified research goals.

Managed an ag biotechnology group of nine, including two Ph.D.'s and three M.S.'s.

Molecular Genetics, Inc., Minnetonka, MN (1979-1987)

SENIOR SCIENTIST - ANIMAL HEALTH CARE AND PLANT RESEARCH (1979-1985 and 1986- 1987)

PLANNING AND SCIENCE DIRECTOR, MOGEN International, Leiden, The Netherlands (1985- 1986)

Coordinated teams and performed research in recombinant viral vaccines, bacterial production of mammalian hormones, and expression and transport of foreign gene products in bacteria, and with field corn in herbicide tolerance, improved amino acid balance, and foreign DNA transformation.

Designed and directed the construction, staffing, and start-up of a new, 30, 000 square foot research facility for a Dutch subsidiary, MOGEN International BV, in The Netherlands.

Department of Soil Science, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN (1977-1979)

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW (1977-1978) RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (1978-1979)

William P. Pilacinski, Ph.D. Continued;

HONORS

Above & Beyond Award, Monsanto Co., 2006

President's Award, Northrup King Co., 1996.

Total Teamwork Award, Northrup King Co., 1996

Bacaner Basic Science Award, University of Minnesota Medical School, 1979.

National Science Foundation National Needs Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1977 - 1978.

Sigma Xi Graduate Student Award for Creative Research, 1977.

U.S. Public Health Service Traineeship, 1972 - 1977.

PATENTS

Yeast-Leavened Refrigerated Dough Products, Domingues, D.J., Atwell, W.A. and Pilacinski, W.P. US Patent #5,759,596. Granted 2 June 1998.

Method of Inducing Lysine Overproduction in Plants, Glassman, K.F., Barnes, L.J., and Pilacinski, W.P. US Patent #5,258,300. Granted 2 November 1993.

Production of Immunogens of Papillomaviruses, Pilacinski, W.P., Glassman, D.L., Krzyzek, R.A., and Sadowski, P.L. US Patent Application #517,063. Filed 25 July 1983.

Academic Partnerships

University of North Carolina School of Public Health Humanitarian Project

Sheila Leatherman, Professor of Global Health Policy at UNC's Gillings School of Public Health. Sheila leads the UNC team.

Leslie Lytle, PhD

Developed, implemented and evaluated behavior-change interventions for more than 25 years;

Sheila and Leslie are supported by two graduate students, **Margaret Holly MPH, PhD candidate** and **Doreen Alyumaya, MPH candidate**. Doreen has worked in UN refugee camps in Africa with a focus on malnutrition.

Goals of the partnership:

1. Improve quality of RHCI services
2. Evaluate RHCI programs to see if they are meeting the needs of the people served
3. Improve health behaviors
4. Support RHCI's nutrition program

Projects of the collaboration:

1. Literature search on child malnutrition
2. Consultation and support for our child malnutrition program
3. Evaluation program for the birth waiting homes, motorbike outreach, stakeholders in Sierra Leone and RHCI staff

Sheila Leatherman, CBE, Hon FRCP. Sheila leads the UNC team.

- Worked with over 50 countries globally;
- Focused on research and policy analysis and developing methods to assess health system performance and advising governments on how to improve quality of care in countries throughout the world;
- Elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 2002 as a member of the Institute of Medicine;
- In 2007 she was awarded the honor of Commander of the British Empire (CBE) by Queen Elizabeth II for her work in the National Health Service;
- Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP) in the UK;
- Presidential Distinction Award of the International Society for Quality in recognition of her work in low- and medium-income countries;
- Appointed by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to the Polio Transition Independent Monitoring Board, which assures functions needed to maintain a polio-free world are mainstreamed into public health programs globally;
- Lead Advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO) where she develops the academic and technical foundations for WHO support of Member States in the development of national health care quality agendas to improve health care services and outcomes globally;
- Current research focuses on improving health care in extreme adversity and is the academic foundation for an upcoming WHO publication, **QUALITY OF CARE IN FRAGILE, CONFLICT-AFFECTED AND VULNERABLE SETTINGS: TAKING ACTION** (2020).

Leslie Lytle, PhD

- Principal investigator on several large National Institutes of Health (NIH) studies;
- Developed, implemented and evaluated behavior-change interventions for more than 25 years;
- Work focused on health behavior change, community nutrition interventions, and behavioral and social aspects of health;
- Nominated to the List of Most Influential Obesity Researchers 2009, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation;
- Frequently invited to serve as an expert reviewer or panelist for national agencies and academic institutions, including the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, NIH, CDC, school health and various behavioral health or nutrition departments.
- Sheila and Leslie are supported by two graduate students, Magaret Holly MPH, PhD candidate and Doreen Alyumaya, MPH candidate. These graduate students support our work in global health, epidemiology and nutrition. Doreen has worked in UN refugee camps in Africa with a focus on malnutrition.

Employment for Residents of Tikonko Chiefdom

- **14** Full time employees
- **Over 60** part time employees receiving stipends including many Community Health Workers from remote villages



RHCI Full time staff

Impacts of Covid



Hand washing buckets donated to Community Health Centers



RHCI's Tailors and admitted women making masks



In-Country Director, Malney Jongopie gets vaccinated

Future Opportunities

- 2 portable OB ultrasounds and trainings
- Program improvement based on current program evaluations
- Training Community Health Workers to assist the malnutrition program
- Technology
- Food Security education to more farmers
- Capital campaign for facility expansion



In-Country Director, Malney Jongoie, with children receiving malnutrition care

Introducing our new Executive Director, Lisa Peterson



QUESTIONS?



Thank you for joining us!

Tikonko Talk.



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